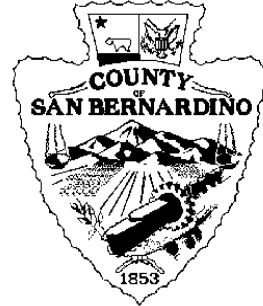


NEWS

From Supervisor Bill Postmus First District, San Bernardino County



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 14, 2003

For information, contact
Brad Mitzelfelt: (909) 387-4830

NEWLY PAVED BEEKLEY ROAD NOW OPEN

-Postmus Opens Long-Awaited Alternative Access to Southbound Highway 138-

PHELAN – San Bernardino County Supervisor Bill Postmus today re-opened the long-awaited, newly paved Beekley Road, providing alternative access to State Highway 138 in the Phelan area.

A 1 p.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony at the intersection of Phelan and Beekley Roads commemorated the long-awaited connection. Previous connections were Phelan Road itself, which intersects the highway to the west of Phelan at a sharp angle; and Sheep Creek Road, which intersects the highway where Caltrans now only allows northbound traffic to use the intersection.

Postmus said he had asked CalTrans to delay closing the northbound Highway 138 exit at Sheep Creek Road until the Beekley project was complete. Despite the request, CalTrans closed the exit due to safety concerns in October 2002.

Formerly a County-maintained dirt road, Beekley is now a two-lane roadway with paved shoulders and drainage facilities. There is an intersection, including traffic signals and a westbound left-turn lane at Phelan Road, and a state-funded, signalized intersection with left-turn lanes at Highway 138.

“The improved Beekley road will provide better, safer access to and from Highway 138,” Postmus said, adding that it also results in the road in front of the Beekley Road Fire Station being paved.

The improved road will help traffic circulation in the Pinon Hills/Phelan area and alleviate some of the delays that have occurred as a result of the CalTrans action.

Actual construction of the project took about seven months, however, environmental

-more-

BEEKLEY ROAD
2-2-2-2

regulations, problems with older public-utility facilities and other problems delayed the design phase of the \$2.3-million project, Postmus said.

Funding for the project included Measure "I" funds drawn from the ½-cent sales tax approved by County voters for transportation projects in 1989. Renewal of the half-cent transportation tax will likely be considered by County voters in November 2004.

"Without the funds from Measure 'I', this project as well as many other key road projects in the area, would not be possible," Postmus said.